



CITY OF CHICOPEE

MAYOR MICHAEL D. BISSONNETTE

MassDevelopment Provides New Brownfields Priority Project Designation at Uniroyal, Releases Additional \$1.1 Million in Brownfield Redevelopment Funds

The funds from the Brownfields Redevelopment Program will allow for continued environmental testing as well as planning and execution of cleanup activities on the former Facemate site. The additional Priority Site designation for Uniroyal will help the City provide oversight and supplemental testing activities of MCP response actions conducted on behalf of Michelin, North America at the former Uniroyal site.

May 2, 2012 – Boston, MA – At its meeting on April 12, 2012, the MassDevelopment Board of Directors approved a new Priority Site Designation for the former Uniroyal property in Chicopee. The new designation provides access to up to \$2 million from the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund for continued environmental testing and cleanup work at the Uniroyal site. To date, Chicopee has received approval for the investment of \$350,000 into the former Uniroyal Site and \$1,650,000 for testing and cleanup of the former Facemate site. The new designation makes each site a Priority Project, meaning Chicopee can access up to \$2 million per site based on future assessment and cleanup needs.

At the same meeting, MassDevelopment approved the release an additional \$1.1 million in grant funds already committed from the Brownfield Redevelopment Fund for continued environmental testing and cleanup efforts at both the former Uniroyal and Facemate sites. Efforts at the Facemate site include ongoing subsurface investigations and preparing bid documents for cleanup strategies, including soil management and historic buried debris. An Older Adult Community Center that received funding approval at the February 15, 2011 City Council meeting and is now under design will help foster additional redevelopment.

Mayor Michael D. Bissonnette said, "This additional funding is great news for the City as it will enable us not only to complete the testing and cleanup necessary to get the former Facemate site ready for Senior Center construction and in marketable condition for private development, but also to make significant advancements at Uniroyal while providing oversight and supplemental testing of the MCP response being conducted on behalf of Michelin North America."

“Redeveloping the Facemate and Uniroyal sites will bring new life to Chicopee Falls with this designation and funding bringing the City closer to achieving that goal,” said Representative Joseph F. Wagner, (D – Chicopee). “Making complicated but beneficial projects like these feasible is exactly what was intended when the legislature created the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund.”

“Mayor Bissonnette and the City of Chicopee have remained committed to redeveloping these challenging sites,” said MassDevelopment President and CEO Marty Jones. “This new designation and funding will add to the foundation for future development at the Uniroyal and Facemate sites. We’re pleased to continue this partnership with Chicopee.” In 2009, MassDevelopment selected the Uniroyal/Facemate Site as a recipient of the Brownfield Redevelopment Priority Project Designation. In the initial designation, MassDevelopment pledged to make available up to \$2 million in grant funds for assessment and cleanup activities at both sites. With the approval of the final \$1.1 million for the above mentioned projects, MassDevelopment’s commitment to the Uniroyal/Facemate redevelopment project reached its maximum under the original commitment.

Mayor Bissonnette stated, “Our partnership with MassDevelopment has enabled the project to be transformed from a derelict mill site into an important redevelopment opportunity for Chicopee. Collaboration with MassDevelopment shows the results that can be achieved when a team approach is taken to resolve local problems.”

The following list showcases a number of completed and on-going activities on the Uniroyal/Facemate Site to date:

- **Demolition** – Uniroyal Buildings 1-6. Completed August 2010.
- **Phase II Building Assessment**- Facemate Buildings 1, 3 & 5 / Uniroyal Building 26. Completed September 2010.
- **Hazardous Building Materials Study** – Facemate Buildings 1 & 5. Completed September 2010.
- **Phase II Environmental Review** – Facemate Property. On-going.
- **Brownfield Support Team Selection** – Uniroyal/Facemate site selected for inclusion in the Lieutenant Governor’s Brownfield Support Team Initiative, aimed at increasing collaboration among state, federal, and local authorities to streamline the redevelopment of brownfields across the Commonwealth.
- **EPA Brownfields Clean-up Grant Proposal** – Facemate Buildings 1, 5 & 12. Proposal submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and waiting approval for grant funds targeted for use in abating hazardous building materials prior to demolition activities.
- **Rails to Trails Project** – Rail line from Grape Street to the Uniroyal/Facemate Site & Rail on Uniroyal/Facemate. Iron Horse Preservation Society removed all rails and ties from the area leaving behind a prepared trail base.
- **Hazardous Building Materials Study** – Facemate Buildings 1, 3, 5, 8, 12. Completed.

- ***Phase I Environmental Review*** – Orwatt Property completed March 2011.
- ***UST Removal Project*** – The Facemate underground storage tank removal project removed three large underground storage tanks from the site.
- ***Transformer removal*** – The final phase of the Uniroyal transformer removal project was completed in March 2010 with the removal of the final transformer from building 29.
- ***Approval for Section 108 Loan program application*** – Application submitted and approved for \$5 million HUD section 108 loan for site preparation and construction of an Older Adult Community Center on the Facemate site.
- ***Facemate Demolition Services*** – City has commenced demolition of buildings on the Facemate site. Site clearance will allow for the development of an Older Adult Community Center and other private investment on the site.

MassDevelopment, the state's finance and development agency, works with businesses, nonprofits, financial institutions, and communities to stimulate economic growth across the Commonwealth. During FY2011, MassDevelopment financed or managed more than 300 projects generating investment of \$3.8 billion in the Massachusetts economy. These projects are projected to create more than 10,000 jobs (2,547 permanent and 8,129 construction), and build or rehabilitate more than 1,000 residential units.